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Redding Friends Meeting
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My career has predominantly involved working with and serving people with disabilities. From 2001-2006 I was the Director of the Disability Services Programs at a local community college. An integral part of our program's services is assistive technology, which in its infinite variety, afford students with disabilities, included those with speech impairments, the needed accommodations that facilitate their full and successful integration in the post-secondary educational environment. While our efforts to assist students to fully participate is required by Federal and state law, it is also the moral and right thing to do. Technology and services, such as relay operators and TTY/TDD along with computer based assistive softward are invaluable examples that assist people with speech disabilities.

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- Operators need to stay on the call long enough to get used to the way the PERSON with a speech disability talks.
 - Operators should tell callers that everything is confidential.
 - People with a speech disability need an easy way to reach Speech-To-Speech.
 - The FCC must stop people in jails from abusing STS.
 - More people with speech disabilities need to be taught to use STS.
 - All these statements also apply to people who use STS on the computer.
 - There should be competition, as that makes STS work better.
 - The operators need to be paid enough so that they do a good job, and they need good training.